



Volume 4, Issue 40  
December 23, 2016

# Woodstock City Manager's Newsletter



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## City Holiday Hours

Unless noted,  
all non-emergency facilities will be closed

### Saturday, Dec. 24th

Rec Center 7 am-11 am (playroom 7:45 am -11 am)

### Sunday, Dec. 25th

All non-emergency facilities closed

### Saturday, Dec. 31st

Rec Center 7 am-5 pm (playroom 7:45 am -11 am)

### Sunday, Jan. 1st

Rec Center 7 am-5 pm (playroom 8:45 am -11 am)

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

- Free Guitars for Future Stars, Stage Left Café, 7 pm
- Ed Hall's Guitar Night, Opera House, 7 pm
- Community Drum Circle, Pots & Pans, Wanda Ln, 7:30 pm

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- Habitat Restoration, Boger Bog, 10 am, [mccdistrict.org](http://mccdistrict.org)
- First Night of Hanukkah

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

- Christmas Day

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

- Grown Up Coloring, Public Library, 10 am

See page 13 for more Around Town.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## Woodstock Health & Wellness Expo

On January 17, 2017, Centegra and the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry will hold a Health & Wellness Expo at Mixin' Mingle, 124 Cass Street from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Expo kicks off a 12-week

initiative focused on Health & Wellness, including Lunch and Learn's, wellness-focused events and a weight loss challenge. Visit the [Chamber's website](#) for additional information.

## Give the Gift of Chamber Bucks this Holiday Season

Chamber Bucks are now available and can be used just like cash at Woodstock businesses and at Chamber Members outside the City limits. Chamber Bucks are available for [purchase online](#) or at local businesses.



## Now Open!

[Wondertucky Distillery and Bottling, Inc.](#) is excited to announce the opening of its new tasting room at 315 E. South Street. Take a tour of the facility as well as sample the original corn whiskey along with the latest addition, an 80-proof, oak barrel-aged bourbon. For additional information on days and hours of operation, call (815) 308-5271.

## Milestone Business Anniversaries



[Phoenix Woodworking](#), located at 2000 Duncan Place, celebrated 20 years in business on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The company specializes in custom architectural millwork, cabinetry, furniture, lockers and store fixtures. Contact owner Sandra Pierce for your next remodeling or expansion needs!



[Matrix 4](#), 610 E. Judd St., is a third-generation, family-owned business which recently celebrated 40 years in business. The company handles all four phases of the plastic injection molding process under one roof – Design, Engineering, Tooling and Manufacturing. Learn more about the [history of the company and its future in the maker's market](#) through the words of Patricia Miller, CEO and visionary.

## Local High School Ranks in Top 100 List

A recent list of the top 100 private high schools in Illinois ranked Marion Central Catholic High School 36<sup>th</sup> in the state. [Read the full story here.](#)

## WOODSTOCK SPECIAL CENSUS TALLY HIGHER THAN INITIAL ESTIMATE

**Woodstock, IL December 21, 2016**—The City of Woodstock has been notified by the US Census Bureau that the final 2016 Special Census tally for the community is 25,528 residents. This is 171 more residents than the preliminary estimate reported following canvassing of the city's newer neighborhoods that took place in October.

In terms of fiscal benefits, each officially-counted resident results in additional reimbursement from the State of Illinois to Woodstock, to compensate for services already being provided to new residents by the City. Since the last Census in 2010, Woodstock is now confirmed to have 758 additional residents. This will result in the City receiving approximately \$115,000 in additional annual State-shared revenues that would not otherwise have been available to Woodstock. The official count still will need to be affirmed by the IL Secretary of State, expected around mid-January. Once this new population total is verified by the State, the City of Woodstock will gain Home Rule status.

Determining the exact count of a community's population is important for many reasons. It is used for manpower staffing to provide a consistent level of service to the residents, for transportation planning and parking needs, and for determining safety and security support. Accurate demographics are also vital to effective economic development efforts that attract businesses, maintain property values, and ensure a broad range of goods and services are available to residents.

A public City Council Workshop to review administrative options available to City leaders under Home Rule was held this week to begin analysis of beneficial changes available to Home Rule communities. Discussion included areas such as property maintenance standards, landlord training and regulation, business registration, video-gaming fees and licensing, and potential changes to the existing mix of municipal revenue options. Council asked City Administration to further review each item and list possible "pros and cons", along with providing examples of best practices and model ordinances from other Home Rule communities. In McHenry County, those communities include Crystal Lake, McHenry, Algonquin, Huntley and Lake in the Hills. As outlined in

Woodstock's previously-enacted Home Rule Policy Ordinance, any municipal procedure being considered that will increase a tax that is not authorized for non-Home Rule units of government will require the City to schedule a public hearing on the issue.

United States<sup>TM</sup>  
**Census**  
Bureau

# PUBLIC WORKS

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## Frozen Water Pipes

In the City of Woodstock, property owners are responsible for the maintenance and/or repair of their home's water service from the water main to the meter. As temperatures plunge below zero, residents need to consider the following measures to reduce their chances of experiencing a frozen water service:

- Shut off and drain pipes leading to outside spigots
- Seal any cold air leaks where pipes are located
- Insulate or install heat tape on water pipes most susceptible to freezing: those along outer walls, in crawl spaces, or in attics (pipe insulation or heat tape is available at most hardware stores)
- Leave a cold water faucet open overnight at a trickle
- Make sure the furnace is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Department of Public Works at [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov) or (815) 338-6118.



## Christmas Tree Collection

The Department of Public Works offers its residents three different opportunities in January to have their discarded Christmas tree collected and mulched. Beginning Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> through Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, residents must have their tree secured in the parkway (the area between the sidewalk and street) **by 7:00 am** on their regularly scheduled garbage day to ensure collection. Please make sure ALL ornaments, tinsel, lights, decorations, nails, bags, and stands are removed prior to pick up (trees are mulched immediately following pickup and cannot be collected with these items attached). Employees collecting trees are also responsible for snow and ice control activities, which could delay the collection of your tree a day or two. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118 or [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov) if you have any questions about this program.

## Streetlight Outage Information

The City of Woodstock owns and maintains the streetlights in the downtown area. Most of the other streetlights in the City are owned and maintained by ComEd. The City pays a monthly fee to ComEd which covers the cost of electricity and repair work. To report a streetlight that is not working, a resident may call ComEd at **(877) 4ComEd-1** or report the issue by visiting their website at [www.comed.com](http://www.comed.com) and clicking on "Outages". Residents may also report streetlight issues to the Department of Public Works at [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov) or (815) 338-6118.



# PUBLIC WORKS

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## Thank You Volunteer Groups & Donators

Throughout 2016, the Department of Public Works was honored to work with many service organizations, youth groups, residents, and families to identify and complete community service projects. Thank you to all of the volunteers for their time, labor, and enthusiasm to provide the following items and/or services:

- **Bull Valley Garden Club** – Purchased and installed plants and maintained beds at Dick Tracy Park, including oversight of the installation of David Orth's "Meeting" sculpture and two (2) additional benches near the labyrinth
- **Ethan Bakazan & Kasi Bourgoin** – Donated of five (5) wooden picnic tables, placed throughout Emricson Park
- **Keep Woodstock Beautiful** – Organized and funded first annual community cleanup event, which included approximately 100 residents and 21 cleanup locations throughout the City
- **Mike McKay** – Donated seven (7) new lids for the Rotary refuse cans located along South Street near Woodstock High School
- **The Land Conservancy** – Maintained Hennen Conservation Area and established the new Ryders Woods entrance at Dick Tracy Way
- **Woodstock Avalanche** - Purchased and assisted with installation of yellow fence toppers for outfield fences at Merryman Fields Park
- **Woodstock Garden Club** - Planted and maintained flower beds and planters at the train station's platform shelters, assisted with design/planting of downtown winter greens
- **Woodstock Girls Softball League** - Purchased and installed two electronic scoreboards at Bates Park (the League hopes to install a new scoreboard at each of the fields)
- **Woodstock High School Senior Service Day** – Senior students painted dug out benches at Dream Field in Emricson Park, painted entrance signs at Banford and Bates Parks, painted entrance signs at both the Wastewater Treatment facilities, painted the railing of the observation deck and performed path maintenance at the William C. Donato Conservation Area, painted downtown fire hydrant, and performed several sections of roadside cleanup
- **Woodstock Jaycees** – Planted flower arrangements in the downtown planters
- **Woodstock Little League** – Prepared Sullivan Field for games throughout the baseball season

## Using Consideration During Snow Removal



Please use the following guidelines to show consideration for your neighbors and our community's pedestrians while shoveling and snow blowing during this winter season:

- Snow from your property should not be pushed into the roadway or onto your neighbor's property or right-of-way
- Sidewalks should be cleared and/or salted to ensure the safety of pedestrians and school children
- Consider clearing a 2-3' radius around a nearby hydrant in order to increase visibility and access for fire fighters



# Celebrations

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## Employment Anniversaries

Jason Dyer	Fleet Maintenance	December	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 years
Phil Lechner	Streets	December	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 years
Phil Mass	Parks	December	8 <sup>th</sup>	19 years
Marvin Myers	Opera House	December	9 <sup>th</sup>	3 years
Chris Lynk	Streets	December	12 <sup>th</sup>	9 years
Aimee Reese	Recreation	December	17 <sup>th</sup>	4 years
Dan Pauley	Police	December	22 <sup>nd</sup>	18 years
Robin Karolewicz	Police	December	27 <sup>th</sup>	26 years
Brett Muehlfelt	Police	December	29 <sup>th</sup>	11 years
Lisa Dawson	Opera House	December	29 <sup>th</sup>	1 year
Michael Montes, Jr.	Opera House	December	29 <sup>th</sup>	1 year

New Year's Resolution #1:

Be More Awesome than last year.



[HappyTownUSA.etsy.com](http://HappyTownUSA.etsy.com)

# POLICE

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***Shop With a Cop*** – The annual “Shop With A Cop” event occurred on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Ten officers, one dispatcher, three WPD spouses, and one daughter volunteered their time to spend half of a day with underprivileged children in the McHenry County area. The program provides children the opportunity to shop for Christmas presents when their “normal” life circumstances would not have been able to afford such an opportunity.

[For more about “Shop with a Cop”, read the article in the Woodstock Independent here.](#)

Detective Jeremy Mortimer of the Woodstock Police Department helps a young friend find a new winter coat. Independent Photo by Whitney Rupp



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## ELVES ON THE LOOSE

Santa Claus (**Deputy Chief Jeff Parsons**) used his sleigh (the department’s D.A.R.E. SUV) and four of his most helpful elves (**Detective Sergeant Josh Fourdyce, Detective Rob Branum, Detective Jeremy Mortimer and Officer Jason Bernstein**) to help deliver food baskets, toys, books, and other gifts on behalf of the Woodstock Rotary Club’s *Christmas Clearing House* program on Saturday morning, December 17<sup>th</sup>. They thoroughly enjoyed helping to spread a little Christmas cheer to the folks in our community who could use it the most.



Along with hundreds of private vehicles, other City delivery vehicles included Dave Zinnen and staff in the Rec Bus, John Scharres and staff in the Opera House van helped with the deliveries. **Chief John Lieb**, his wife, **Michelle**, and sons **Rob** and **Nathan** were also on hand to help deliver lots of Christmas joy with the members of Boy Scout Troop #168. The official count was 914 families assisted, including 1,441 children receiving toys

Anyone wishing to make a donation this year to benefit the program next Christmas may do so by sending a check made payable to *Christmas Clearing House* at P.O. Box 53, Woodstock, IL 60098.

# RECREATION

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## ***Monthly Tween Nights at the Rec Center -***

Tweens in 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited on the first Saturday of the month for open gym activities from 6:30 - 8:30 pm for a \$5 drop-in fee. The next Tween Night will be on January 7<sup>th</sup> and will feature organized gym activities, volleyball and board games.

Swim suits and towels are needed if using the pool. To register for Rec Center Programs, click [here](#).

## **Great for Students! Winter Break Memberships**

### **1 Month Student Full \$35**

Full members have general use of the facility

Not including: Group fitness classes, unlimited racquetball court time, tanning, and the playroom.

### **1 Month Student Executive \$45**

Executive members have full use of the facility

Including: Group fitness classes, unlimited racquetball court time, tanning, and playroom.





## ***Pete's Dragon***

Join us in watching Pete's Dragon on Thursday, January 5th at 10 am and 6 pm.

Hello!

iHola!

## ***English Conversation Club***

Interested in practicing your English? Joining our Conversation Club on Tuesdays at 10:00 am is a great opportunity for native Spanish speakers.

## ***IT Assistance***

Need help with that tablet or other smart device? Stop in Tuesday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 pm and Thursday mornings between 10:00 and 11:00 am for some one-on-one assistance with our IT Librarian gurus.

## ***Friday Fun Day***

Every Friday there will be a small, do-it-yourself activity in the Children's Department. It will be available all day, and announced on Facebook that morning. We've already built forts, colored on the floor and played dress-up, come in to see what's next!

## ***District 200 Art Show***

The Library will be hosting the District 200 Art Show through Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Library Book Drops***

Main Library, Wonder Lake State Bank (3316 Thompson Road, Wonder Lake)



# OPERA HOUSE

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## Free Guitars for Future Stars

Founded in January, 2009, by Scott Neumann, Cheryl Neumann, and Matt Mickelsen their mission is working to supply free guitars and guitar lessons to children ages 10-17, from lower income McHenry County families.

A group of the students will be holding a free recital style performance at Stage Left Café on Friday, December 23rd at 7:00 pm. Come see the rising stars from McHenry County.

For more information about Free Guitars for Future stars check out their website at [www.fg4fs.org](http://www.fg4fs.org).



## Ed Hall's Guitar Night

Five internationally acclaimed musicians will present an evening of entertaining arrangements for the guitar as well as popular holiday favorites on the Opera House stage.

Performing will be:

Tim & Myles Thompson the father/son duo from Hendersonville, TN;

Helen Avakian the singer/songwriter and "guitar goddess" from Madison, WI;

Brother Yusef the originator of the "Fattback Blues" guitar style from Altadena, CA;

Jeff Friedlander, award winning guitarist and songwriter from Pittsburgh, PA.

The annual holiday tradition continues and is one you won't want to miss.

**PIANO MAN** brings the music of Elton John and Billy Joel to life in a show that pays them the ultimate tribute. With some of the most versatile musicians and the uncanny ability to mimic the voices of these two mega-superstars, PIANO MAN is one of the most authentic tribute bands in the country.







## Off Square Music New Years Eve

December 31st will be our annual New Year's Eve Party at Stage Left. This year we are serving pizza at 8 pm and the music will start at 8:30 pm with a champagne toast at midnight. If you would like to perform that evening please contact Keith Johnson asap to reserve your slot. Usually we allow for ten minutes or 2 songs and spots fill up quickly so don't wait. Come share New Year's Eve at this FREE event.

## Treasure Island

**Saturdays, January 21,  
28, & February 4,  
at 2:00 PM**

The magic of this play comes from the way the entire audience creates the storm at sea, a jungle full of lions and tigers, and a treasure cave filled with eerie ghosts! Children from the audience become members of Long John Silver's treacherous pirate gang, while others join Captain Smollet's crew. Volunteers will also help with sound effect machines for the play! Presented by Friends of the Opera House



**TICKETS:** \$5.00 Adults, Children 12 and under are FREE—Stage Left Café

## New 65-Gallon Recycling Tote

The City of Woodstock now offers a recycling container larger than the 35-gallon totes previously available. At nearly double the size, the 65-gallon tote will answer the need for a lidded, wheeled, larger tote. These recycling totes are available at City Hall for a one-time cost of \$30.

The City still has a few of the 35-gallon totes available for \$20 and we will keep the blue bins in stock for \$8.



## Refuse Price Increase

Garbage rates will be increasing by 1% in the new year.

The monthly rate for City residents renting totes will be \$23.23, and the sticker price will be \$2.71 per garbage sticker. Yard waste stickers will go up 2 cents to \$2.42 in 2017.

This price increase is based on the Chicago area rate of inflation per our contract with MDC.



# AROUND TOWN

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## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

- **Teen Movie Night**, Public Library, 6:30 pm

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

- **Water Bottle Flipping Contest**. Wonder Lake Food Pantry, Noon to 2 pm Grades 6th - 12th are invited
- **Piano Man**, Opera House, 8 pm

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

- **Off Square Music - Fundraiser New Year Celebration**, Stage Left Café 8 pm

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

- **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## MONDAY, JANUARY 2

- **Christmas Tree Collections Begins**

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

- **Senior Coffee**, Stage Left Café, 1pm

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

- **Trivia Night**, Main Street PourHouse, 7 pm

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

- **Pete's Dragon - Movie**, Public Library, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm

Watch our Website and Facebook pages for current and updated information.

- [www.woodstockil.gov](http://www.woodstockil.gov)
- [Woodstock Square Facebook](#)
- [Woodstock City Hall Facebook](#)
- [Real Woodstock](#)



## Sing

*Set in a world like ours but entirely inhabited by animals, Sing stars Buster Moon, a dapper Koala who presides over a once-grand theater that has fallen on hard times. Buster is an eternal optimist-okay, maybe a bit of a scoundrel-who loves his theater above all and will do anything to preserve it. Now facing the crumbling of his life's ambition, he has one final chance to restore his fading jewel to its former glory by producing the world's greatest singing competition.*



# Ladies Night

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December 1st

Ladies Night Out on the Square



On a cold Thursday evening, women descended on the Historic Square for a night of jolly friendship and shopping. Over 440 ladies registered for this traditional event, although many more attended the event. Many of the businesses on and off the Square participated with sales, prizes and treats for the shoppers.





# CELEBRATIONS

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## **Phoenix Woodworking – 20 years (December 6<sup>th</sup>)**

(L to R) Garrett Anderson, Economic Development Director; Roscoe Stelford, City Manager; Dr. Brian Sager, Mayor; Sandra Pierce, Owner; Joe Starzynski, Councilman; Maureen Larson, Councilwoman; RB Thompson, Councilman; Paul Christensen, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director; Mark Saladin, Councilman





**City of Woodstock**  
121 W. Calhoun St.  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
Phone 815- 338-4300  
Fax 815- 334-2269

Hours:

8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
M, W, Th, F  
8:30 am - 7:00 pm  
Tuesdays unless  
otherwise posted

**Building & Zoning**

815-338-4305

**Economic**

**Development**

815-338-3176

**Finance & Billing**

815-338-4300

**Human Resources**

815-338-1172

**Opera House**

815-338-4212

**Police Department**

815-338-2131

**Public Library**

815-338-0542

**Public Works**

- Parks
- Streets
- Sewer
- Water

815-338-6118

**Recreation**

815-338-4363

**CITY MOTTO:**

**“True to its past and confident of its future.”**

**Reminder Newsletter Publish Dates**

*January 2017*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



**City Meetings  
Open to the Public**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
1/5/16	8:00 am	Economic Development Commission	City Hall Council Chambers
1/5/16	7:30 pm	Library Board of Trustee	Public Library